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# STANISLAUS National Forest



home cabin, Stanislaus National Forest.

United States Department of Agriculture 1.5 Forest Service

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### What To Do When Lost

A clear head will find itself. If everyone remembered this there would be fewer reports of persons lost in the mountains and forests. Loss of mental control is more serious than lack of food, water, or clothing. The man who keeps his head has the best chance to come through in worth are safety.

following helpful rules The

remembering:

1. Stop, sit down, and try to figure out where

Use your head, not your legs.

2. If caught by night, fog, or storm, stop at once and make camp in a sheltered spot. a fire in a safe place. Gather plenty of dry fuel.

3. Don't wander about. Travel only downhill.

Follow watercourses or ridges.

4. If injured, choose a cleared spot on a promontory and make a signal smoke. The Forest Service fire lookouts or the observers in airplanes may see your smoke.

5. Don't yell, don't run, don't worry, and

DON'T QUIT.

A word from the forest rangers to the new

camper, hiker, or vacationist:

It is a wise precaution to tell someone your destination and route of travel. It is better to carry a clear head on your shoulders than a big pack on your back. Yet in going alone into the mountains it is well to go prepared for any emergency. A fishline and a few hooks, matches in a waterproof box, a compass, a little concentrated food, and a strong knife, should always be carried. A gun may help as a signal, seldom for obtaining food. Above all, keep cool, and the chances are you will come out of the woods on your own feet.

### Good Manners in the Forest

A good sportsman, camper, or tourist, when he goes into the national forests-

First, obtains a campfire permit.

Carries a shovel and ax.

Smokes only in camp.

Puts his fire dead out with water.

Leaves a clean and sanitary camp.

Observes the State fish and game laws.

Cooperates with the forest rangers in reporting and suppressing fires.

Preaches what he practices.

# Location of the Forest-Colorful History-

HE Stanislaus National Forest is located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Range, extending from the Merced River on the south to Mokelumne River on the north, and from the summit of the Sierra on the east to the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley on the west. It includes parts of Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne Counties. The total area in the Stanislaus National Forest is 1,103,967 acres. Of this 320,008 acres are Government land and 283,959 acres are in private or State ownership.

This national forest is named for the Stanislaus River whose headwaters are included within the boundaries. The name "Stanislaus," according to Sanchez, is derived from an Indian chief who was baptized by the Spanish fathers under the name of "Estanislao." This man became a renegade and in 1826 was defeated on the banks of the river which bears his name. Another theory is that the Spaniards named the river for a Saint. Frémont mentions the river as Stanislaus in 1847, so the name had become Americanized some time in the 1840's.

The first known crossing of the Sierra Nevada by a white man was over a route leading through the present Stanislaus National Forest. In May 1827, Jedediah Strong Smith, intrepid and courageous explorer, buffeted his way through blinding storms and snow, and crossed the Sierra south of Sonora Peak at Emigrant Pass. Smith had previously led a party from Utah into southern California by way of the Mojave Desert, and from there had traveled northward through the San Joaquin Valley to the Stanislaus River. As he was anxious to return to Salt Lake City, he essayed to cross the Sierra with his entire party, but encountered such heavy snow that he abandoned the trip. Smith then left the party and with only two companions made a second and successful attempt.

This region was the Mecca for adventurers of every character during the early days of the "gold rush." Here the miners, gamblers, dancing girls, and "bad men" gravitated because of the richness of the placers. But with this unreliable population came also one of the hardiest, most conscientious,

law abiding, and resolute groups of men ever gathered together. So the Mother Lode prospered and produced millions in gold for the upbuilding of industries and agriculture. In addition, it helped to carry the United States Government itself, with a steady and sound financial standard, through the great financial crisis of the Civil War.

The foothill region of the Stanislaus Forest, known as the "Bret Harte Country," is rich in the history of the forty-niners and the placer mining days of the fifties. The quiet little village



# -Meaning of the Name ·How to Get There

of Columbia was formerly one of the largest towns in California, where thronged the red-shirted miners and where many a fortune, won from nature in a day, was carelessly lost over the farotables in a night. Nearby are the old placer grounds, washed bare of their covering of soil and gravel, bleak uprearing monuments of limestone which bear witness to the tireless work of man in his search for gold. This region is the scene of many of the stories of Mark Twain and Bret Harte. A cabin on Jackass Hill near Tuttletown is preserved as the place where Mark Twain lived with the Gillis brothers in the sixties. Such local names as Calaveras, Slumgullion, Poker Flat, Whiskey Hill, Roaring Camp, Table Mountain, Red Dog, and Angels Camp are found in the stories by Twain and Harte of the early days in this region.

One of the belts of the famous Mother Lode—a gold-bearing quartz vein on which many well-known mines are located—runs outside the forest boundary in a straight southeasterly direction from Angels in Calaveras County to Jacksonville in Tuolumne

County.

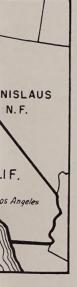
How to Get There.—Three State highways pass through the Stanislaus Forest from the western boundary over the summit of the Sierra Nevada to the east side of the mountains, where they connect with highways going into Nevada and the Lake Tahoe section and with other roads extending north and south the entire length of California.

The Ebbetts Pass Highway goes through the northern portion of the forest, and may be reached by good roads from the San Joaquin or Sacramento Valleys. It crosses the Sierra summit at an elevation of 8,600 feet, and is one of the least difficult of the trans-Sierra roads. From San Andreas, Angels, or Murphys in Calaveras County it is an easy day's drive by way of the Calaveras Bigtrees State Park over Ebbetts Pass to Markleeville, the first town on the east side of the mountains. Hotel accommodations, gas, oil, and supplies are available at points between Murphys and Markleeville.

The Sonora-Mono Highway, the oldest road over the Sierra Nevada in the Stanislaus Forest, crosses the western boundary of the forest near Confidence

and passes through the central part, leaving the forest at Sonora Pass (elevation 9,624 feet) on the summit of the Sierra. This highway, built in the sixties during the silver mining boom in Nevada, is a former route of the Pony Express, and connects with El Camino Sierra running north and south from a point a few miles north of Bridgeport in Mono County. Hotel accommodations, supplies, gas and oil are available at several places along this route.

The Big Oak Flat Road, formerly an old stage route and toll



#### Forest Administration

The Stanislaus Forest is administered by a forest supervisor who has his headquarters in Sonora. The forest is divided into four districts, each in charge of a district ranger, with headquarters as follows:

Calaveras Ranger Station, post office Murphys.

Sonora Ranger Station, post office Sonora. Tuolumne Ranger Station, post office Groveland.

Brightman Flat Ranger Station, post office Dardanelle.

Forest officers will gladly give information, issue campfire permits, and be of such assistance to travelers as their regular duties will permit.

road, is one of the main highways leading into Yosemite National Park from the San Joaquin Valley. It begins at Chinese Camp, enters the Stanislaus Forest about 6 miles east of Groveland, passes through the southern portion of the forest, and enters the Yosemite National Park near the Tuolumne Grove of giant sequoias.

The Tioga Road is a much-traveled highway across the Sierra summit and a popular route between Yosemite Park, Mono Lake, and Lake Tahoe. It branches from the Big Oak Flat Road at Carl Inn, 24 miles from Groveland. This road enters the Yosemite National Park at Aspen Valley checking station, and going by way of Lake Tenaya and Tuolumne Meadows crosses Tioga Pass at an elevation of 9,941 feet, where it enters the Mono National Forest and terminates at Mono Lake.

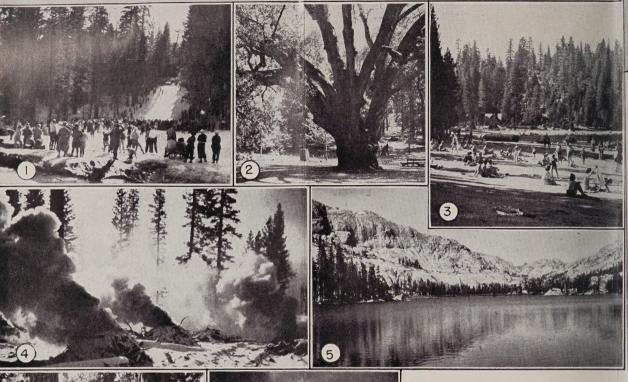
In addition to the main highways, over 1,150 miles of roads and truck trails and 900 miles of horse and foot trails traverse the Stanislaus Forest, making it one of the most accessible national forests in California. Such roads and trails have been constructed by the Forest Service, primarily for administration and fire protection.

The western portion of the Stanislaus Forest may be reached by the Sierra Railway, which maintains bus service from Stockton via Oakdale to Sonora and Tuolumne. The Pacific Greyhound Lines maintain daily stage service from San Francisco, Stockton, and various San Joaquin Valley towns to numerous points on or near the forest.

Huckleberry Lake. A high country public campground accessible only by trail is located here. F-275454











- (1) Winter sports attract thousands of people to the Stanislaus National Forest.
- (2) The Tuolumne Oak (Quercus chrysolepis) 8 miles from Tuolumne. Circumference 31½ feet; spread of branches 131 feet. One of the largest canyon live oaks in California.
- (3) Strawberry Lake. A Stanislaus National Forest resort close to the metropolitan center of the San Francisco Bay region.
- (4) The Forest Service cleans up all slash and debris on Government timber sale areas to reduce the fire hazard.
- (5) Buck Lake in the Emigrant Basin Primitive Area, Stanislaus National Forest. F-TEMP. ME21-4
- (6) Giant sequoias in the Calaveras Bigtrees State Park on the Ebbetts Pass Highway.
- (7) A virgin stand of ponderosa and sugar pine.

### Timber-Water-Forage

TIMBER.—As a timber producer the Stanislaus is one of the most important national forests of California. The estimated stand on Government land is 91/2 billion board feet.

Government timber is appraised and sold to operators by competitive bid. All logging is done under the supervision of forest officers, who mark the trees to be cut so that the overmature timber is removed and sufficient young trees are left to reseed the ground and form the basis for the next cut. The least possible damage is done to the trees and young growth left on the logging area.

Two of the largest lumber companies in the Sierra Nevada have sawmills and box factories at Standard and Tuolumne, with a broadgage and a narrow-gage railroad over which logs are hauled 30 to 60 miles from the logging camps in the Stanislaus Forest to the mills.

Several small mills are also located in this area.

Water.-The Stanislaus Forest contains the entire headwater drainage of the Stanislaus River, half of that of the Mokelumne and Tuolumne Rivers, and a small part of that of the Merced River. The Mokelumne River supplies water for the East Bay Municipal Utility District which includes Oakland, Berkeley, and seven other towns and cities.

Water from these drainage areas is used for hydroelectric power, irrigation, and domestic supplies. There are, either in the national forest or dependent in large part on water from the national forest watersheds, 14 hydroelectric power plants which have an installed capacity of 296,000 horsepower.

The Oakdale and Modesto Irrigation Districts are supplied with water from these forest watersheds, and a large part of the drainage area of the great Hetch Hetchy project, which supplies water and power to San Francisco, lies in the Stanislaus Forest.

All these important uses of water are vitally dependent upon the preservation of the forest cover which regulates the run-off from

the drainage basins of these streams.

Forage. The Stanislaus Forest provides grazing each year for 11,700 cattle and horses and 9,800 sheep. Regulated grazing on Government lands insures protection of the ranges by means of the assignment of the proper class of stock to each type of grazing land and through limitation of the length of the grazing season and the number of animals on each range. The improvement and perpetuation of the range for the good of the livestock industry is the object

of Forest Service regulation.

Recreation .- The Stanislaus National Forest is located in the central Sierra region within 100 miles air line from the metropolitan centers of the San Francisco Bay area. Its accessibility to these areas as well as to the cities of the San Joaquin Valley, attract large numbers of campers and other recreationists. Some of these visitors are on trans-Sierra tours, and some occupy summer home sites rented from the Forest Service at an annual cost of \$15. But the greatest recreational class includes the campers who spend from I day to several weeks in the forest. Thirty-one tracts along automobile roads have been surveyed and subdivided into lots as sites for summer homes. The largest development of this kind is at Pine Crest, on the shores of Strawberry Lake.

Commercial permits are also issued for resorts, stores, and other business developments necessary for the accommodation of the public. In the issuance of commercial permits care is taken to avoid uneconomic competition and the number and location of business projects will be in proportion to the public need for any particular service. Information concerning summer home sites and for commercial or institutional locations may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor at Sonora, or from the local forest officer.

The cities of Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco maintain municipal recreation camps within the Stanislaus National Forest which are open to their citizens at nominal rates. Such institutions as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y. M. C. A., and others, have similar camps within the forest.

Free campgrounds maintained by the Forest Service for the use

of campers and travelers are located at Pine Crest, Cow Creek, Lily Creek, Cascade Creek, Mill Creek, Niagara Creek, Clark's Fork, Brightman's Flat, Pigeon Flat, and Deadman Creek on the Sonora-Mono Road. On the Ebbetts Pass Road there are public camps at Big Meadows, Lake Alpine, Sand Flat, Pacific Valley, and Hermit Valley. On the Big Oak Flat Road camps will be found at Lost Claim, South Fork, Sunset Creek, Carl Inn. and North Crane Creek. Numerous hotels and resorts that cater to the comfort of travelers are located along the main highways and at points of scenic and recreational interest.

Wildlife and Game Refuges .- The conservation of wildlife and the proper and legal control of the "harvest" of game animals, fish, and birds, is one of the duties of the Forest Service. Cooperation is maintained with the Division of Fish and Game, State Department of Natural Resources, and other interested organizations and individuals. One of the most outstanding of these cooperators is the Tuolumne County Fish and Game Association which in 1932 originated the practice of building check dams at the headwaters of streams in the high Sierra country in which small fish lived. Periodically, during seasons of low water, these streams would cease flowing and become a series of potholes with consequent loss of the natural reproduction of trout fry. With check dams impounding water and raising the level of mountain lakes, enough water is stored to maintain the natural flow of these streams and preserve and propagate trout. In a locality of more than average use by fishermen, these check dams have proved very successful in maintaining a supply of fish.

Deer are well distributed over the national forest. They are protected by State Game Refuge 1-R in the northern part of the national forest between the North Fork and the main Stanislaus River. State Game Refuge 1-J is just across the main Mokelumne River in the Eldorado National Forest and the Yosemite National Park on the southeastern boundary is a Federal game sanctuary. All forms of hunting and the carrying of firearms is forbidden in these refuges. Firearms may be transported through refuges when

taken apart and encased.

Emigrant Basin Primitive Area. To preserve in their primitive state typical mountain and forest areas in California noted for their scenic and recreational values, the Forest Service has set apart certain national forest lands as primitive areas for the use and enjoyment of all the people. Such areas will be preserved in a "wild" state in the sense that they will not be developed by road building or forms of permanent recreational occupancy. The grazing of livestock will be permitted, and when economic conditions warrant, the orderly utilization of timber, water power, and other resources may be allowed.

The Emigrant Basin Primitive Area includes 97,000 acres of mountainous country lying north of the Yosemite National Park on the headwaters of the Cherry and Stanislaus Rivers. This is a picturesque area of rugged granite domes and deep granite-walled canyons, in which there are sparkling lakes and turbulent streams. This is a true wilderness, accessible only by Government trails, and offers many opportunities to the fisherman and naturalist. The elevation varies from 6,000 feet to 11,575 feet at Leavitt Peak.

The Calaveras Bigtrees.-Two groves of bigtrees (Sequoia washingtoniana) are located within the Stanislaus National Forest on or near the Ebbetts Pass Highway, about 8 miles above the Calaveras Ranger Station. The North Grove, purchased in 1932 by popular subscription and State funds and now called the Calaveras Bigtrees State Park, is said to have been found by J. M. Wooster in June 1850. The original grove was reported by the Whitney survey party in 1861–68 to have contained between 90 and 100 trees of large size and at least 4 over 300 feet in height. The present grove covers an area of 50 acres and contains 158 trees over 12 feet in diameter. The finest trees of the grove are Keystone State, Three Graces, Trinity, the Sentinels, and Old Dowd.

# -Wildlife-R

The South Grove is less than 3 miles in an air line from the North Grove, but, because of the 1,000-foot canyon of the North Fork of the Stanislaus River, can best be reached from the highway by an 8-mile trail. The grove itself is an irregular tract of 415 acres extending along the narrow valley of Big Tree Creek, and contains 947 trees over 12 feet in diameter. This grove is still in private ownership, but it has been proposed that it be purchased

winter Sports.—Winter sports have become an increasingly popular form of recreation in the Stanislaus National Forest. At holiday time and over week ends, hundreds of motorists from the San Francisco Bay region and San Joaquin Valley towns, as well as from local communities, journey to various easily accessible

snow fields.

If motorists, or those who come by bus, do not care to bring their own equipment, skis, toboggans, and skates may be rented at stores

or resorts.

The California State Division of Highways removes the snow from the Ebbetts Pass Highway as far as Camp Connell; from the Sonora-Mono Highway as far as and including the loop road through Pine Crest; from the Big Oak Flat Highway as far as the Cliff House.

Following is a list of winter sport areas on the Stanislaus National

Forest:

Calaveras Bigtrees State Park.—Elevation: 4,800 feet. Location: 18 miles east of Angels Camp on Ebbetts Pass Highway, State Highway 4. Land ownership: State park. Parking: 500 cars on area and on highway. Ski jumps: None improved. Ski lift: None. Toboggan slide: 1,600 feet; free. Ski trails: None

lift: None. Toboggan slide: 1,600 feet; free. Ski trails: None posted. Shelters: State park hut; free to public. Equipment: Skis and poles rented at hotel. Instruction: None. Meals: On and adjacent to area. Lodging: Hotel on area. First aid: State park custodian on area. Ranger station: State park station on area. Camp Connell.—Elevation: 4,800 feet. Location: 21 miles east of Angels Camp on Ebbetts Pass Highway, State Highway 4. Land ownership: Private. Parking: 500 cars along highway. Ski jumps: Class D. Ski lift: None. Toboggan slide: 200 feet; free. Ski trails: None posted. Shelters: Store lobby. Equipment: Skis and poles rented at store on area. Instruction: None. Meals: On area. Lodging: Cabins on area. First aid: Calaveras Bigtrees State Park Custodian, 3 miles west. Ranger station: State park custodian, 3 miles west, and Calaveras Forest Service Ranger Station, 11 miles west on highway.

Cold Springs.—Elevation: 5,700 feet. Location: 26 miles east

Cold Springs.—Elevation: 5,700 feet. Location: 26 miles east of Sonora on State Highway 108. Land ownership: Private. Parking: 1,000 cars along highway and at hotel. Ski jumps: None. Ski lift: Tramway; charge. Toboggan slide: None. Ski trails: None posted. Shelters: Hotel lobby and warming hut; free to public. Equipment: Skis and poles rented at hut. Instruction: Instructors on area; charge. Meals: Hotel and lunch counter on area. Lodging: Hotel and cabins. First aid: At hotel. Ranger station: Forest supervisor's headquarters, U. S. Forest Service,

Sonora.

Long Barn.—Elevation: 5,000 feet. Location: 20 miles east of Sonora on State Highway 108. Land ownership: Government and private. Parking: 1,500 cars along highway. Ski jumps: Class C. Ski lift: Rope type; charge. Toboggan slide: 1,850 feet; charge. Ski trails: Long Barn to Hull Meadows, elevation 5,000 feet undulating, 7 miles, posted. Shelters: Hotel lobbies and stores. Equipment: Skie and vales rested on area. Instruction: stores. Equipment: Skis and poles rented on area. Instruction: None. Meals: Hotels and stores on area. Lodging: Hotels and cabins on area. First aid: Sonora Ranger Station; forest supervisor's headquarters, U. S. Forest Service, Sonora.

Pine Crest.—Elevation: 5,600 feet. Location: 31 miles east

of Sonora on State Highway 108. Land ownership: Government. Parking: 1,000 cars along highway. Ski jumps: None. Ski lift: None. Toboggan slide: None. Ski trails: Herring Creek, eleva-

### ecreation

tion 7,500 feet, to Strawberry, elevation 5,500 feet, 7 miles, posted. Pine Crest, elevation 5,600 feet, to Burst Rock, elevation 9,200 feet, 12 miles, posted. Shelters: Hotel lobbies. Equipment: Skis and poles rented at hotels. Instruction: Karl's Place; charge. Skating: Outdoor rink; charge. Meals: Hotels on area. Lodging: Hotels on area. First aid: Pine Crest. Ranger station: Forest Service ranger station, Pine Crest; forest supervisor's head quarters, U. S. Forest Service, Sonora.

#### FIRE PREVENTION

The preservation and wise use of all resources on the Stanislaus National Forest are absolutely dependent on adequate fire prevention. Without fire prevention much timber would be destroyed; stream flow would be diminished by the destruction of the timber and ground cover which protect valuable watersheds; grazing values would be lessened by the damage to forage and the deterioration and erosion of soil; fish would be destroyed by lack of water; and game animals would be injured or killed by fire. Recreation values depend on the preservation of these resources.

depend on the preservation of these resources.

Fire prevention and suppression, therefore, take priority over all other Forest Service activities, and should have first place in the thoughts and actions of all those who use the forest, whether com-

mercially or for recreation.

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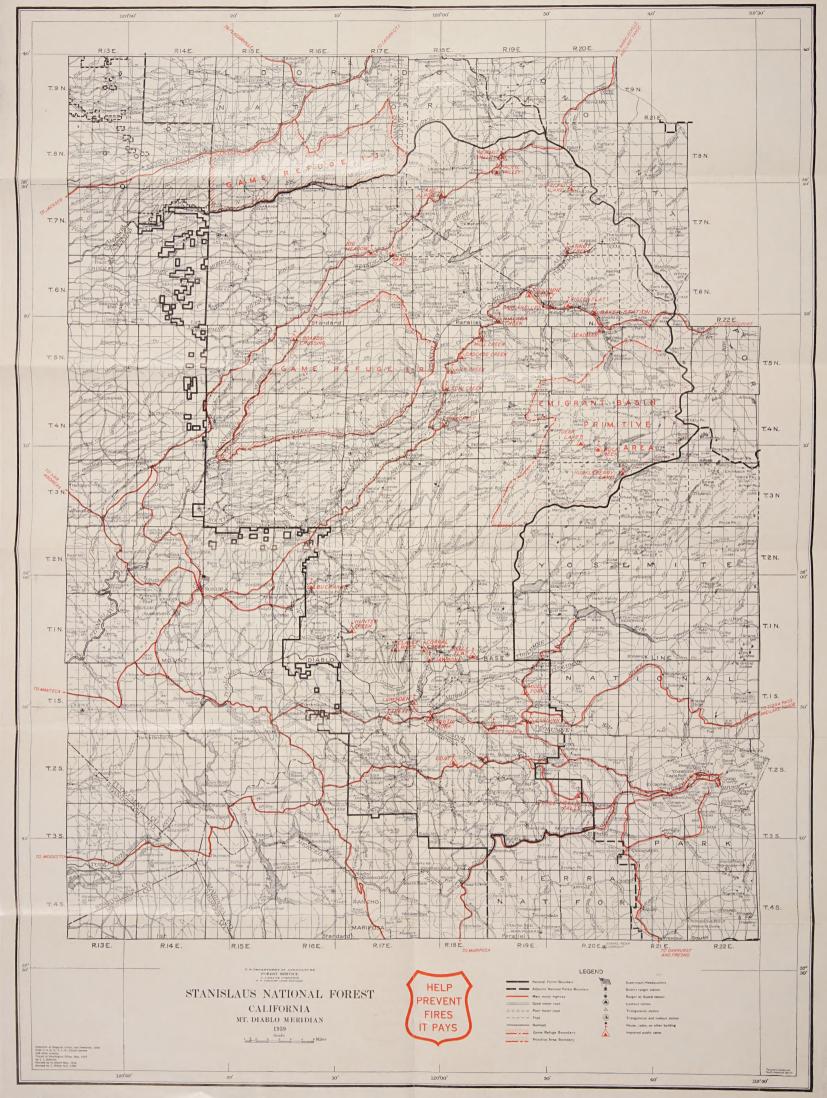
(8) The Dardanelles—from a point near Niagara Creek on the Sonora-Mono Highway.

(9) Forest Service range management protects the livestock industry through conservative use of forage resources.









The resources of the Stanislaus National Forest are for your use and enjoyment—help protect them from damage and destruction by fire.



The Bennett Juniper (Juniperus occidentalis) near Deadman Creek, Stanislaus National Forest. Single trunk 80 feet high; circumference 57½ feet at ground; 42 feet 9 inches at 6 feet above ground; average diameter 14 feet 2 inches. Age over 3,000 years as determined by Dr. Waldo Glock, Carnegie Institution of Washington. Named after Clarence K. Bennett of Hillsborough, Calif., who made possible the study of California juniper.